CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A WAN system comprising: a plurality of computers enabled for mutual communication using an optimizing protocol; a first one of the computers enabled for acting as a proxy for a second one of the computers using an application layer protocol; and the second one of the computers acting as a proxy for at least a third one of the computers using the application

10 layer protocol, wherein the first one of the computers is enabled for communication with the fourth one of computers using the application layer protocol; the second one of the computers being further enabled for selecting between the first one and the fourth one of the computers, for directing a request from one of the third one of the computers.

15 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the application layer protocol is HTTP and the second and third computers are one and the same computer.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second ones of the computers each employ a means for compatible data compression.

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4. A method for communication over a wide area network comprising the steps of: configuring a client computer, a first proxy computer, a second proxy computer, and a server computer, each having a data processing means, a data storing means, and an operating system; interconnecting the computers for communication through a wide area network;

25 enabling the first proxy computer for communication with the server computer using an application layer protocol; placing the second proxy computer local to the client computer; enabling the first proxy computer and the second proxy computer for communication by a special optimizing protocol; and enabling the second proxy computer for communication with the client computer using the application layer protocol, and further comprising the step

of enabling the second proxy computer for communication with the server computer using the application layer protocol; the second proxy computer further enabled for selecting between the server computer and the first proxy computer, for directing a request from the client computer.

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5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of enabling the application layer protocol in HTTP and wherein the client application is adapted for browsing.

6. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of enabling the first and second proxy

10   computers for operating with mutually compatible data compression.

7. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of enabling the application layer protocol in HTTP and wherein the client application is adapted for browsing.

15   8. A method of deploying a two proxy system comprising the steps of: providing at least one user computer communicating with Internet serving computers using an application layer protocol, and at least one proxy computer; downloading installation files from a web site to a memory device in a user computer, and installing the client proxy software from the installation files; enabling the user computer, using downloaded software, to configure the

20   client application for sending requests in the application protocol to the client proxy software; using downloaded software to configure the user computer for operating the client proxy software whenever the client application is operating; and sending at least one portion of the requests from the application to the first computer system.

25   9. A method of deploying a two proxy system comprising the steps of:
a. providing a plurality of computers interconnected via WAN
b. transferring installation files from one of the computers to another of the computers.
c. enabling the another of the computers to act as a proxy for a browser function thereof
d. enabling the another of the computers to use a further computer as a proxy therefor.

10. A method comprising the steps of: providing at least a first computer communicating with a plurality of Internet serving computers using an application layer protocol; downloading installation files from a web site to a memory device in a user computer, and 5 installing the client proxy software from the installation files; enabling the client proxy software for communicating with an application using the application layer protocol; and enabling the user computer using downloaded software to configure the client application for sending requests in the application protocol to the client proxy software, using downloaded software to configure the user computer for operating the client proxy software whenever the 10 client application is operating; and sending at least one portion of the requests from the application to the first computer.